

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Honor America for their tireless efforts to remind us all what it means to be an American and celebrate it.

HONORING BILL SCHWERI

HON. ANDY BARR

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a tireless advocate for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, Mr. Bill Schweri, who is retiring from his position as the Director of Federal Relations at the University of Kentucky. As Bill retires, I want to personally thank him not only for the work he has done to better the Sixth District of Kentucky and the broader Commonwealth, but also for the relationship he has developed with me and my staff.

Bill has always been happy to spend the time to get to know my office, and we all have fond memories of working with Bill—not to mention remembrances of chatting about UK sports in the front office. Bill's ability to build lasting relationships is unmatched, and he leaves large shoes to fill.

Few people have contributed as much to our Commonwealth and UK as Bill has during his 42 years at the University including the last 20 as Director of Federal Relations. His contribution to the success of UK—from the NCI designation at the Markey Cancer Center to advances in energy research to programs in agriculture and education—speaks for itself.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me and the Big Blue Nation as we honor Bill Schweri and wish him a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2015

SPEECH OF

HON. BRAD R. WENSTRUP

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's request to train vetted, moderate Syrian rebels, as I believe it is only one step in the right direction and it's supported by military experts.

Tremendous oversight is going to be necessary in this effort. And unfortunately I fear, as do many experienced generals and military personnel, that it's part of a strategy that's insufficient to secure America's national security.

The President's stated objective is to destroy ISIL. However, I believe that this overall strategy, and the means requested, are not enough to meet this objective.

The current strategy relies on U.S. airpower in support of local forces. This is not a counterterrorism effort, and to destroy ISIL, it's necessary to have strong coordinated ground troops.

The local ground forces the President is planning to rely on appear currently unready and they will need to operate with a strong central command and control.

The President's strategy does not provide for U.S. Special Forces and the backing of our ground troops, even though our military leaders have repeatedly suggested the exact recommendation.

Our security is too important to base military strategy on political calculations. Our strategy must be firmly rooted in what is necessary in order to complete the mission and to ensure our security. From Clausewitz to Powell, military leaders have preached the necessity of decisive force.

I served in Iraq. We heeded this wisdom and committed to win with decisive force. We acted on military reality and not political risk.

We can do this again and fulfill the American objective to destroy ISIL, but we must commit ourselves to do what is necessary. Not only what it takes, but whatever it takes.

HONORING DAVID SMITH

HON. JULIA BROWNLEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Ms. BROWNLEY of California. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize David M. Smith, President and Chief Executive Officer of United Way of Ventura County, on the occasion of his retirement from an exemplary career in dedicated public service and outstanding contributions to our community.

David Smith has had a remarkable and distinguished career as a community leader and philanthropist. His passion and dedication to the mission of United Way has fostered a thriving and prosperous environment for numerous community programs that serve the citizens of Ventura County with an array of invaluable health and human services.

In October 2001, David took on the weighty role and responsibilities as the leader of United Way of Ventura County, and served as a steward for the organization's vision and shared purpose of changing lives and shaping communities.

With over a decade of dedicated service, David has created a powerful strategy of encouraging individuals to invest in their community's needs, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all of Ventura County's residents and delivering positive community results.

In addition, David holds an impressive volunteer track record as a member of the Board of Directors of Ventura County Economic Development Association. David has also served as a board member of the Boys & Girls Club of Camarillo, the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce, Casa Pacifica, the Ventura County Taxpayers Association, and the American Cancer Society Ventura County Chapter. For his selfless service to his community, the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce honored David Smith as Man of the Year in 2010.

David Smith's lifetime career of leadership, community service, and his many accomplishments are indicative of his unwavering commitment and dedication to Ventura County. As this chapter in his career comes to an end, I want to express my sincere appreciation for David's years of honorable and selfless dedication that greatly contributed to the success of the United Way of Ventura County, and our community as a whole.

For these reasons, I commend David M. Smith and wish him the best in all of his future endeavors.

LAND AND WATER CONSERVATION FUND

HON. DAVID G. REICHERT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, September 18, 2014

Mr. REICHERT. Mr. Speaker, on September 3, 1964, President Johnson signed the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) into law, establishing a dedicated and permanent means for the protection of America's irreplaceable recreational, natural, historic, cultural and outdoor resources.

The 50th anniversary is an occasion for celebration, but also a reminder that LWCF's authorizing legislation expires in within a year. As we commemorate LWCF's half-century track record of success, it is imperative to secure reauthorization of the program before that date.

LWCF is fully paid for without relying on the support of American taxpayer dollars. Every year, \$900 million of the many billions of dollars the U.S. Treasury collects from offshore oil and gas drilling is deposited into the LWCF trust fund. These revenues are a promise made to the many communities across America that rely on these resource lands, and on the conservation and recreation economies they support.

This arrangement has served our nation well, helping to realize a long list of conservation successes over the past 50 years without costing taxpayers a dime. This includes creating outdoor recreation opportunities in every state and 98 percent of counties across the country—opening up key areas for hunting, fishing, and other recreational access; supporting working forests and ranches; and acquiring inholdings and protecting critical lands in national parks, national wildlife refuges, national forests, Civil War battlefields and other federal areas. From the Pacific Crest Trail to the North Cascades, the Mountains to Sound Greenway to Lake Chelan, the high quality of life and outdoor opportunities in Washington have been protected by LWCF.

Outdoor recreation activities in Washington directly support 227,000 jobs and consumers spend \$22.5 billion on outdoor recreation equipment, apparel, lodging, and other services, generating \$1.6 billion in state and local tax revenue. Further investments are needed to replace funds that have been redirected and to ensure that we can continue to protect our national treasures, such as the Yakima River Basin in my home state. This is an area not only used and beloved by hikers, campers, hunters, and fisherman but it also critical in providing drinking water and irrigation.

LWCF does more than simply add acreage to our public lands—it provides an entire suite of conservation tools to address national, state, local and regionally driven priorities across the country. These include working land easements that keep working forests in production and jobs in rural economies—rather than forcing family forest owners to subdivide and sell off portions of their land to developers. Additionally, these often include purchase of inholdings within the boundaries of existing public lands which make management more efficient by reducing the cost of fencing, boundary surveying, firefighting and other costs and ensuring access for land management.